

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CPR-01
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5253
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, GY
SUBJECT: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATIES: BARBADOS
FONMIN CALL TO GUYANA'S FONMIN

REF: (A) STATE 212395, (B) GEORGETOWN 2118

1. DURING MY CALL ON FONMIN WILLS THIS MORNING TO OUTLINE
SCENARIO FOR ARRIVAL OF DELEGATIONS IN WASHINGTON, WILLS
RECEIVED A CALL FROM BARBADOS FONMIN HENRY FORDE. IT WAS CLEAR
FROM THE END OF THE CONVERSATION THAT I HEARD THAT FORDE
WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE WILLS THAT GUYANA SHOULD NOT SEND A
HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO THE SIGNING CEREMONY NOR SHOULD IT
SIGN THE DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON. WILLS QUIPPED AT ONE
POINT THAT "GUYANA IS NOT UNDER HIS IDEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP."
HE TOLD FORDE THAT HE AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REID WERE
GOING TO THE CEREMONIES BUT THAT THE GOG HAD NOT DECIDED
WHETHER TO SIGN THE DECLARATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT GUYANA
WAS SENDING HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO THE CEREMONIES FOR
THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) AFTER HAVING TAKEN STRONG POSITIONS IN THE NON-ALIGNED
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URGING AGREEMENT ON A TREATY CONSONANT WITH PANAMA'S SOVEREIGNTY
AND NATIONALISM IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT NOT TO PUBLICLY
CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS; AND
(2) PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TAKING A COURAGEOUS STAND, WAS
UNDER ATTACK BY RIGHT WING FORCES, AND GUYANA WANTED TO HELP
HIM BECAUSE IT WAS IN GUYANA'S INTEREST THAT CARTER SUCCEEDS
IN HIS POLICIES VIS-A-VIS THE THIRD WORLD.

2. UPON HANGING UP, WILLS LAUGHED AND JOKINGLY SAID THAT TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS HAD MOVED TO THE LEFT OF GUYANA. GOTT FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDON HAD CALLED FORDE, HE SAID, TO INDICATE THAT THE GOTT WAS NOT SENDING A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON AND AS BARBADOS WAS DOING LIKEWISE HAD ASKED FORDE TO PERSUADE GUYANA JOIN THEM ON THE BASIS OF CARICOM SOLIDARITY. WILLS SEOMEWHAT BITTERLY SAID HIS REMARK ABOUT "IDEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP" (PARA ONE ABOVE) REFERRED TO A PHRASE IN PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE. WILLS SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM A SOURCE IN TRINIDAD AND IT BOTHERED HIM THAT THE US APPEARED TO BE GIVING WILLIAMS A LICENSE FOR EXERCISING IDEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA. SUCH ATTITUDES BY THE US WERE DIVISIVE AND FOR GUYANA DISCOURAGING. IT DEMONSTRATED THAT THE USG STILL DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT GUYANA WAS NON-ALIGNED AND THAT THE KIND OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IT WAS ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE WOULD BENEFIT ALL ITS PEOPLE AND IN THE LONG RUN WOULD BE MORE STABLE THAN THE UNEVEN AND UNJUST DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN TRINIDAD.

3. WILLS EMPHASIZED THAT THE REASONS HE HAD GIVEN FORDE WERE GUYANA'S REAL REASONS FOR ATTENDING THE CEREMONY. HE ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM WOULD HAVE ATTENDED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE CRISIS OVER THE SUGAR STRIKE. HE WAS
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SURE THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD EXPLOIT THIS AS GOG SNUGGLING CLOSE TO THE US IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. GUYANA WOULD CRITICIZE THE US IF IT DISAGREED WITH ITS POLICIES AND ACTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY THE GOG'S MOTIVES FOR EITHER PRAISE OR CRITICISM WERE INVARIABLY MISINTERPRETED.

4. COMMENT: GUYANA STILL WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY AT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEVEL AND MY GUESS IS THAT ITS DELEGATE WILL SIGN THE DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON UNLESS PRIME MINISTER MANLEY PERSUADES THEM NOT TO DO SO. IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO DO ADDITIONAL PERSUASION IN WASHINGTON AFTER WILLS AND REID ARRIVE THERE, WILLS SHOULD BE THE ONE TO FOCUS ON. DURNHAM HAS DELEGATED THE DECISION CONCERNING THE DECLARATION TO HIM. THE BEST ARGUMENTS TO USE ARE THOSE WHICH INDICATE THEIR ACTION WILL HELP PRESIDENT CARTER SUCCEED IN GETTING THE TREATY APPROVED AND DEFEAT THE RIGHT-WING. TO APPEAR TO LINK GUYANA'S COOPERATION TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT. ALTHOUGH GUYANESE LEADERS DESPARATELY WANT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE US, EVEN IN THEIR OWN MINDS THEY DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR

TO BE TRYING TO TRADE FRIENDSHIP FOR ASSISTANCE.
BLACKEN

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Sent Date: 05-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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